

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stengl et al, with claim 16 being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stengl, all for the reasons of record. In response, claims 12 and 14-16 are herewith amended to more clearly and precisely define the instant invention, and it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims, as herein amended are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied reference for the reasons detailed below.

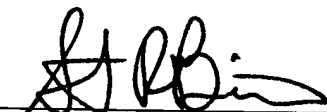
Referring to Stengl, and in particular the portions thereof cited in the Action, it can be seen from Fig. 2 that while there are in fact varying concentrations in the lateral direction, in that openings 11 are larger than openings 12, and openings 12 are larger than 13, there clearly are not variations in concentration in the vertical direction, since all of the openings 11 are of the same size, openings 12 are of the same size and openings 13 are of the same size. Accordingly, independent claim 12 is herewith amended in order to more precisely recite that the termination region has a lateral dimension and a vertical dimension, and a charge density is provided in the termination region that

decreases in both the lateral dimension and the vertical dimension as a direct function of the distance from the active region. Similarly, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the termination region is doped in varying charge concentrations along both the lateral dimension and the vertical dimension. This distinction can be clearly seen by comparing Applicants' Fig. 4 (in which variations are shown in both the vertical and lateral dimensions) to Fig. 2 of the prior art (in which variations are shown only in the lateral dimension).

In view of the foregoing amendments to the independent claims and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently-pending claims, as herein amended, are now clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied reference. Accordingly, allowance of the currently-pending

claims is now respectfully submitted to be justified, and
favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

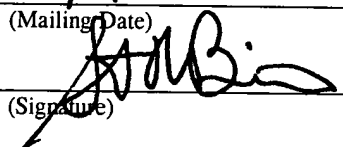
Respectfully submitted,

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